SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES LONDON

By the King.

A Proclamation for preuenting of Deceipt vſed in the Importation of Madder.

WHereas the true workmanſhip of Manufactures in euery Nation doth preſerue not onely the Worth, but alſo the eſteeme thereof, to the great auaile and profit of that Nation. And Whereas the Woollen Cloathes of this Kingdome being well and perfectly made, Dyed and dreſſed, are in great reputation in Forreine Nations, and are a great addition to the Wealth of this Kingdome, and the falſe and deceitfull Dying thereof, doth much detract from their eſtimation. And Whereas Madder Which is a Dying Stuffe of principall vſe for laying the ground of many ſeuerall colours, is brought from Forreine parts into this Realme, the deceitfull mixture whereof with Sand and otherwiſe, doth not onely deceiue the Buyer, but doth alſo fret the Cloth, and make the Colours defectiue. Wee therefore vpon mature aduice and deliberation by Our Letters Patents Sealed with Our Great Seale of England, bearing date at Weſtminſter the twelfth day of January, in the third yeere of Our Reigne for the cauſes therein expreſſed, and to preuent and ſuppreſſe the ſaid deceipt and abuſe, Did ordaine and appoint George Bedford Gentleman (Who by his induſtry and experience had found out a perfect way for the diſcouerie and reformation of that abuſe) to be Our Officer by himſelfe, or his Deputies inſtructed by him, to ſearch all Madder Which ſhould from thenceforth be imported before the ſame ſhould bee put to Sale, and to diſcouer the vndue mixtures of ſuch imported Madder, and by conuenient Markes and Deſcriptions by him to be inuented to diſtinguiſh the ſame, that ſo neither the Buyer ſhould be couſened, nor the Dyer who ſhould vſe the ſame be abuſed.

Neuertheleſſe, We finde that ſome ill diſpoſed perſons importing Madder, contemning Our Royall commandement in a caſe ſo much tending to the publique good, haue hitherto oppoſed Our ſaid Officer in the execution of the truſt committed vnto him, whereby the abuſes aforeſaid doe continue, and will increaſe dayly, if the ſame be not preuented. We therefore minding the reformation of theſe deceipts, and being well ſatisfied of the abilitie of Our ſaid Officer to performe that ſeruice wherewith we haue truſted him, for that vpon publique tryall made at the common Hall of the Company of Dyers of Our Citie of London, he hath made it appeare in the preſence of ſome of the Officers and Miniſters of Our Cuſtome-houſe in Our Port of London, and of the beſt experienced Dyers, that hee is able and ready exactly to performe his duety, Haue thought it fit in a caſe of this nature, by this Our Royall Proclamation, to notifie and publiſh Our Royal

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will and pleasure, touching the searching and trying of all Madder imported, and to be imported before the same be put to Sale. And Wee doe hereby signifie and declare to all Whom it doth or may concerne, That the said George Bedford is the Officer or person Whom We haue authorized and appointed for the present execution of that seruice, by himselfe, or his sufficient Deputies, according to Our said Letters Patents, to him granted as aforesaid: And that Wee shall expect and doe require from all Our louing Subiects, that due notice be taken thereof, and that a strict and continued obedience and conformitie bee yeelded hereunto. And for the better performing Our Royall Will and pleasure herein; We doe straitly charge and command all and euery person and persons whatsoeuer, Whom it may concerne, carefully to prouide and see Our Royall Will and pleasure obserued in the Orders and Rules hereafter following, as they tender Our pleasure, and would auoid the contrary at their vttermost perill.

First therefore Our Royall Will and pleasure is, That all and euery the Masters of Ships or other vessell wherein Madder shall bee imported, shall from henceforth expresse and set downe in the entry of his Ship and lading thereof euery parcell of goods in his Ship, that hee or they shall know, or beleeue to bee Madder by that name, and no otherwise, and shall affirme the same vpon his Oath, as is vsed touching Entries of Goods with Our Customers, and shall likewise giue a true note in Writing vnto Our said Officer or his Deputy, attending at Our Custome-house for that purpose, of euery parcell of Madder so entred, and imported by him in his Ship accordingly.

That if the Owners of the said Madder or their Assignes shall not within conuenient time after the Shipper or Master hath made his Entry with Our Customers take vp by Bill at sight, and present the same their Madder, and giue notice thereof vnto Our said Officer, or his Deputy, to the end hee may take the same into his custodie for the tryall thereof; Our will and pleasure is, That then Our Collector, Comptroller & Surueyor of Our Customes and Duties, doe by their generall warrant cause the Wayters of that Ship to take vp and see the said Madder to be Weighed and laid into Our said Office, and deliuered into the safe custodie of Our said Officer, by Whom the said Madder being searched, tried and Sealed, shall neuertheless be detained and kept, vntill he receiue warrant from Our aforesaid Officers of Our Customes and Duties, or their Assignes or Deputies, that all the Custome and Duties for the same due to Us in Our Custome-house be duely payed or agreed for, and vntill the Fees due to Our said Officer, and all other charge thereto happening through the Owners default bee fully satisfied and paid.

That no Porter, Carman, or other person shall presume by direction from the Merchant, or otherwise, to lade, take, helpe or consent to the carrying of any Madder from the Port, or place of landing, without warrant from the said George Bedford Our Officer or other Officer to be appointed by Us or of his Deputy or Deputies for the time being. And We doe hereby absolutely prohibite and forbid all persons of What estate, degree or condition soeuer, directly, or indirectly, to Buy, Sell or put to Sale, or to hide, keepe, conceale, or occupy any of the said Madder, that hath not beene viewed, searched, tryed, distinguished, and Sealed by Our said Officer, his Deputies or Assignes, and which hath not the Seale of Our said Office and Officer thereon, vpon paine of Our high displeasure if notice be not giuen vnto Our said Officer, before the same be discouered. And it shall be at Our Officers choice, whether hee will search, try, and Seale the said Madder at the Custome-house, or for the ease & conuenience of the Merchants to doe it at their owne houses, and all Madder there and elsewhere found by him or his Deputies to be vnsealed, shall immediately thereupon bee tryed, sealed, and distinguished.

That Our Grauer of Our Mynt and Seales, or any other whom Our said Officer shall imploy, shall from time to time frame and make such seuerall Stamps and Seales, to bee engrauen with Our Armes or otherwise, as hee shall thinke fit, alwayes obseruing that the Stamps for the best sort of Madder, shall bee engrauen With this word, Crop: for the second, sort, with this word Ghemeene, and for the third and worst sort, with this word Mull. And if vpon tryall any of the said Madder bee found to bee mixt or burthened With aboue two pounds of Earth, or Sand in the hundred weight; Then shal the said Officer enter in a Booke to be kept for that purpose the weight of the Sand or Earth so mixt therewith, & vpon the Seale shal be added this word, Mixt, with a figure, shewing that the same Madder is mixt and imperfect, and shewing also in what proportion in the hundred pound weight that mixture is made, vpon which side of the Seale also shall be expresst the name of the Port or place Whereinto the said Madder Was first brought, With certaine Figures and Letters of Direction vnto Our said Officers Books of Register, Whereof Wee will all Our louing Subiects to take speciall notice, to the end that after they haue bargained for any parcell of the said Madder, they may by carrying or sending a Copie of that side of the Seale vnto Our Officer in that Custome-house (at Custome house time) haue Certificate vnder his hand of the proportion of the mixture thereof, if the Seale

ſhould be altered. According whereunto Wee doe ſtraitly charge and command all perſons ſelling Madder to make allowance and abatement, vnto the Dyers or other Buyers of ſuch Madder, containing ſuch vndue mixture.

That all Clothiers, Dyers, and all other perſons occupying Madder within this Kingdome, ſhall according to the proportion of the mixture of the ſaid Madder with Earth or Sand, adde a like quantitie or proportion of good Madder in the Dye Fat, to the end the colours therewithall dyed may be made full, good, and without blemiſh or imperfection.

That the ſaid George Bedford Our preſent Officer having already taken his corporal oath for the faithfull performance of Our truſt, and his duety in this behalfe; Our Will and pleaſure is, that ſuch Oath ſhall be likewiſe adminiſtred vnto his ſeuerall Deputies, and ſo many of them as ſhall be ſufficient for the performing of this ſeruice in the ſeuerall Ports of this Kingdome; And Wee doe hereby ſtraitly charge and command all and ſingular Maiors, Sheriffes, Juſtices of the Peace, Bailiffes, Conſtables, Headboroughs, Tithingmen, Cuſtomers, Collectors, Comptrollers, Searchers, Waiters, Meſſengers, Farmors, Deputies, and all other Our Officers, Miniſters and louing Subiects whatſoeuer, That they and euery of them from time to time, and at all times when Our ſaid Officer, or his Deputies in Our name ſhall require them thereunto bee aiding and aſſiſting vnto the ſaid George Bedford Our Officer, his Deputies and Aſſignes for the time being, in all things in or about the accompliſhment of Our Royall Will and pleaſure in Our ſaid recited Letters Patents or in the Warrants of Our high Treaſurer of England, as is hereby expreſſed. And that they or any of them doe not any way hinder, moleſt, interrupt, let, deteine, or keepe Our ſaid Officer his Deputies or Aſſignes, or any, or either of them from or in the execution of this Our Seruice, or any thing touching the Premiſſes, as they tender Our diſpleaſure, and will auoid the ſame at their perill.

Laſtly, that if any perſon of What eſtate, degree or condition ſoeuer, ſhall hereafter offend in any part of the Premiſſes; or ſhall falſifie, deface, alter or take off any of the ſaid Seales from the Bale, Fat or other thing in Which the ſaid Madder Was firſt brought into this Kingdome, before the ſame be all vſed and ſpent: Our Will and pleaſure is, That immediate notice bee giuen thereof vnto Our Attourney Generall for the time being, Whom Wee Will and require in Our behalfe to proſecute and proceede againſt the Offendors in Our Court of Starchamber or Exchequer-Chamber, or any other Our Courts as the cauſe ſhall require, to the end they may receiue ſuch ſeuere Cenſure and condigne Puniſhment, as by the Lawes and Cuſtomes of this Kingdome, or Our Prerogatiue Royal, may be inflicted on them for ſuch their Contempt, Diſobedience, and Wilfull breach of Our Royall Will and Commandement, and for their frauds and abuſes.

Giuen at Our Court at Eaſt-Greenwich, The fifteenth day of Iune, in the ſeuenth yeere of Our Reigne.

God ſaue the King.

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